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(54) **COMMUNICATION METHOD AND COMMUNICATION APPARATUS**

(57) This application provides a communication method and a communication apparatus. The communication method includes: A terminal device receives first information, where the first information indicates at least one supported network slice, the at least one supported network slice includes a network slice supported by a first cell and/or a network slice supported by a first access device, the first cell includes a cell currently accessed by the terminal device, and the first access

device includes an access device currently accessed by the terminal device; the terminal device receives second information, where the second information indicates at least one allowed network slice; and the terminal device processes a session establishment request of a first service based on the first information and the second information, so that a waste of resources for transmission of the session establishment request can be reduced.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	US 2019/327657 A1 (HAN FENG [CN] ET AL) 24 October 2019 (2019-10-24) * paragraph [0052] - paragraph [0080]; figures 2, 3 *	1-5, 9-12,15	INV. H04W48/18
E	EP 3 989 665 A1 (NEC CORP [JP]) 27 April 2022 (2022-04-27) * paragraph [0047] - paragraph [0067]; figures 7-9 *	1-5, 9-12,15	ADD. H04W48/12 H04W76/10
A	US 2020/107250 A1 (SO TRICCI [US]) 2 April 2020 (2020-04-02) * paragraph [0079] - paragraph [0144]; figures 3, 4 * * paragraph [0146] - paragraph [0152]; figure 6 *	1-5, 9-12,15	
X	WO 2019/078964 A1 (QUALCOMM INC [US]) 25 April 2019 (2019-04-25) * paragraph [0170] - paragraph [0176]; figures 3, 4 *	6-8,13, 14	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
Munich		4 September 2026	Lastoria, Gianluca
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	



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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due.

☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

☒ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

☐ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

☐ The present supplementary European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims (Rule 164 (1) EPC).



LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION SHEET B

Application Number

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The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-15

Communication method, apparatus and computer readable storage medium allowing a terminal device to (a1) receive information on the network slices supported by, and allowed in, the serving cell/access device of the terminal device and to (b1) process a session-establishment request on that basis.

1.1. claims: 6-8, 13, 14(completely); 15(partially)

Communication method, apparatus and computer readable storage medium allowing a core network device to (a2) obtain indication information indicating any of (a2.1) whether a service for a terminal device supports/not support slice remapping/fallback, (a2.2) whether a terminal supports cell redirection, (a2.3) information on alternative second cell/access device/network slice and to (b2) communicates with the terminal device on that basis.

Please note that all inventions mentioned under item 1, although not necessarily linked by a common inventive concept, could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee.

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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